



The Soul's Journey invites you to walk the historic tradition of the Stations of the Cross in new and compelling ways. Artist Kathrin Burleson shares her deep soul searching and inspiration that led to the creation of paintings that depict the Passion of Christ. The stations move from the Garden of Gethsemane to Golgotha, from the Empty Tomb to the Resurrection.

In addition to the provocative watercolors, the book features passages from scripture, devotions from key leaders in The Episcopal Church, and reflections from the artist on the process of creation and her own spiritual journey. Together, these paintings and words explore the emotions of the Passion, from betrayal, judgment, and suffering to love, hope, and resurrection.

The Stations of the Cross invite us to enter the drama, to let ourselves be transformed by the story and to make it our own, and to continue along the soul's journey that shapes each of our lives.

THE SOUL'S JOURNEY

An Artist's Approach to the
Stations of the Cross

Artwork and Text by Kathrin Burleson



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I JESUS PRAYS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.” Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.” When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”

– Luke 22:39-46



II

JESUS IS BETRAYED AND ARRESTED

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, **“The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.”** So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, **“Rabbi!”** and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.

– Mark 14:43-46

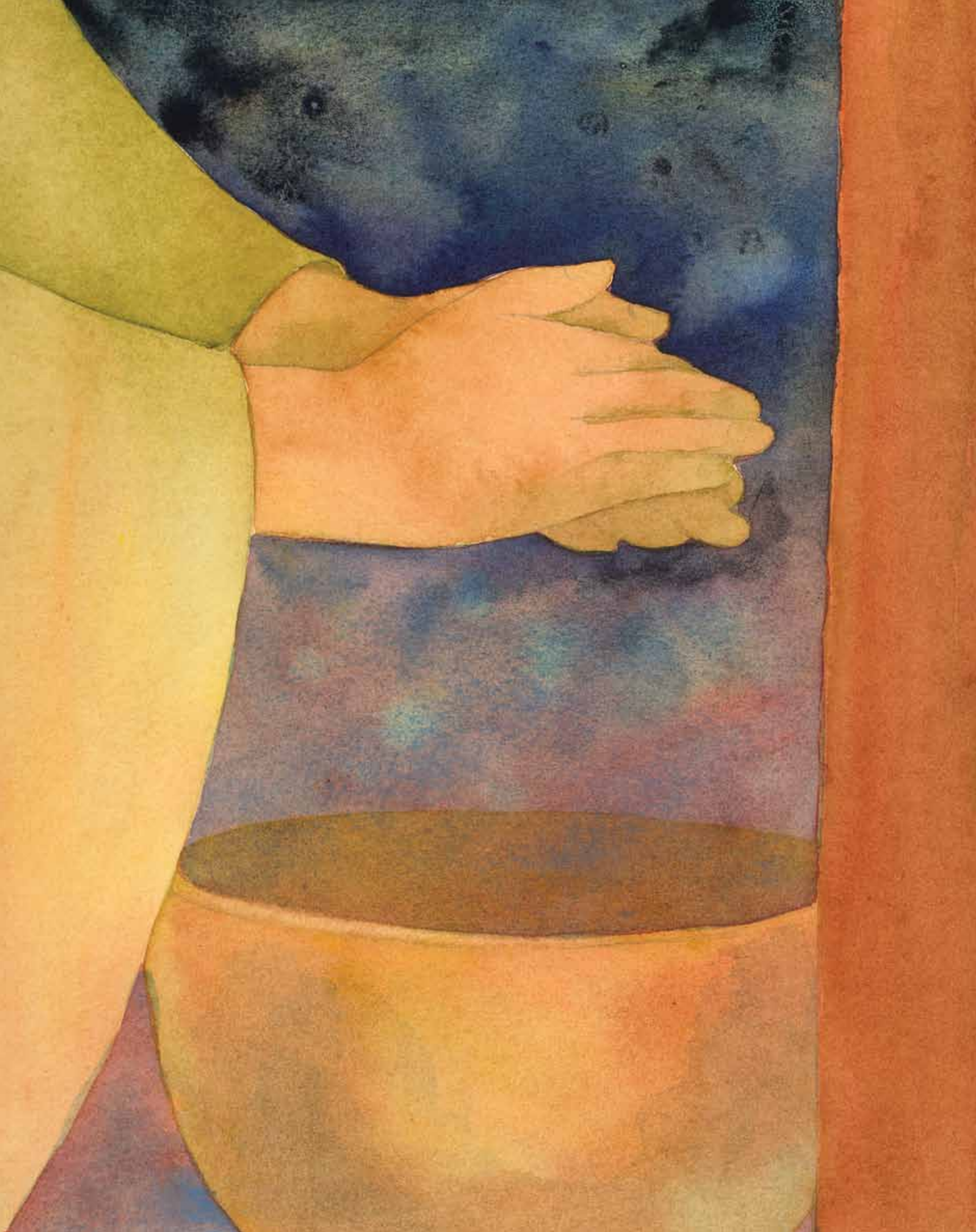


III

PETER DENIES JESUS

“Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” And he said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!” Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me.”

– Luke 22:31-34

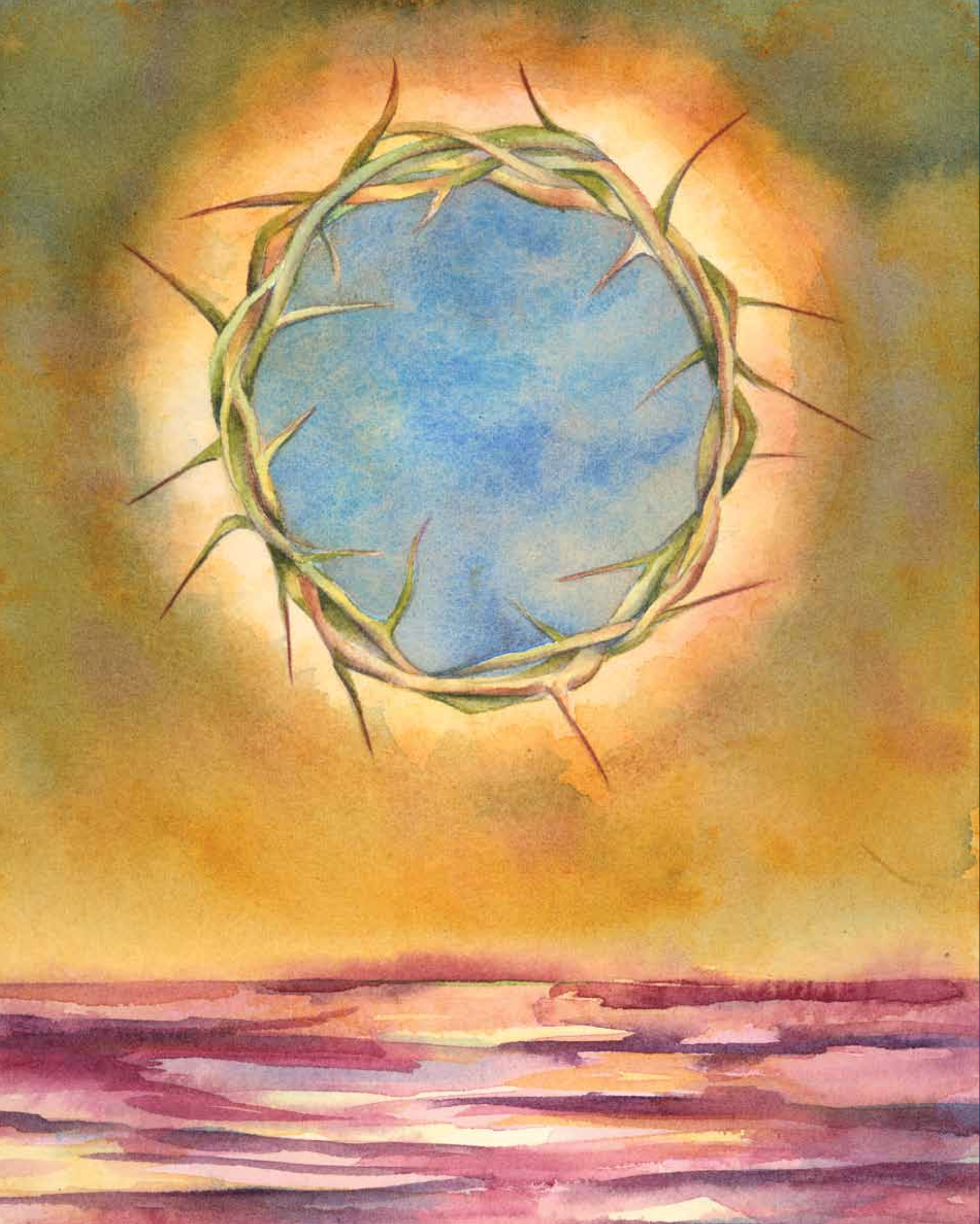


IV

THE CROWD CONDEMNS JESUS

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, **“Are you the King of the Jews?”** Jesus said, **“You say so.”**...While [Pilate] was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, **“Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.”** Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, **“Which of the two do you want me to release for you?”** And they said, **“Barabbas.”** Pilate said to them, **“Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?”** All of them said, **“Let him be crucified!”** Then he asked, **“Why, what evil has he done?”** But they shouted all the more, **“Let him be crucified!”** So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, **“I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”** Then the people as a whole answered, **“His blood be on us and on our children!”** So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

– Matthew 27:11-26



V

THE SOLDIERS MOCK JESUS

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, '**Hail, King of the Jews!**' and striking him on the face.

– John 19:1-3



VI

JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS

And carrying the cross by himself, he went out to the
Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

– John 19:17



VII

SIMON OF CYRENE ASSISTS JESUS

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross: it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

– Mark 15:21



VIII

JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’; and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

– Luke 23:27-31


A watercolor illustration depicting the crucifixion. On the left, a hand is shown holding a wooden plank. In the center, a bright, glowing yellow and orange light emanates from a point where a nail is being driven into a surface. To the right, another hand is shown holding a nail. The background is a mix of purple, red, and green washes.

IX

SOLDIERS NAIL JESUS TO THE CROSS

Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews."

– Mark 15:22-26



X

MARY AND THE BELOVED DISCIPLE STAND AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother; and his mother's sister; Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, **"Woman, here is your son."** Then he said to the disciple, **"Here is your mother."** And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

– John 19:25-27



XI

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split.

– Matthew 27:45-51

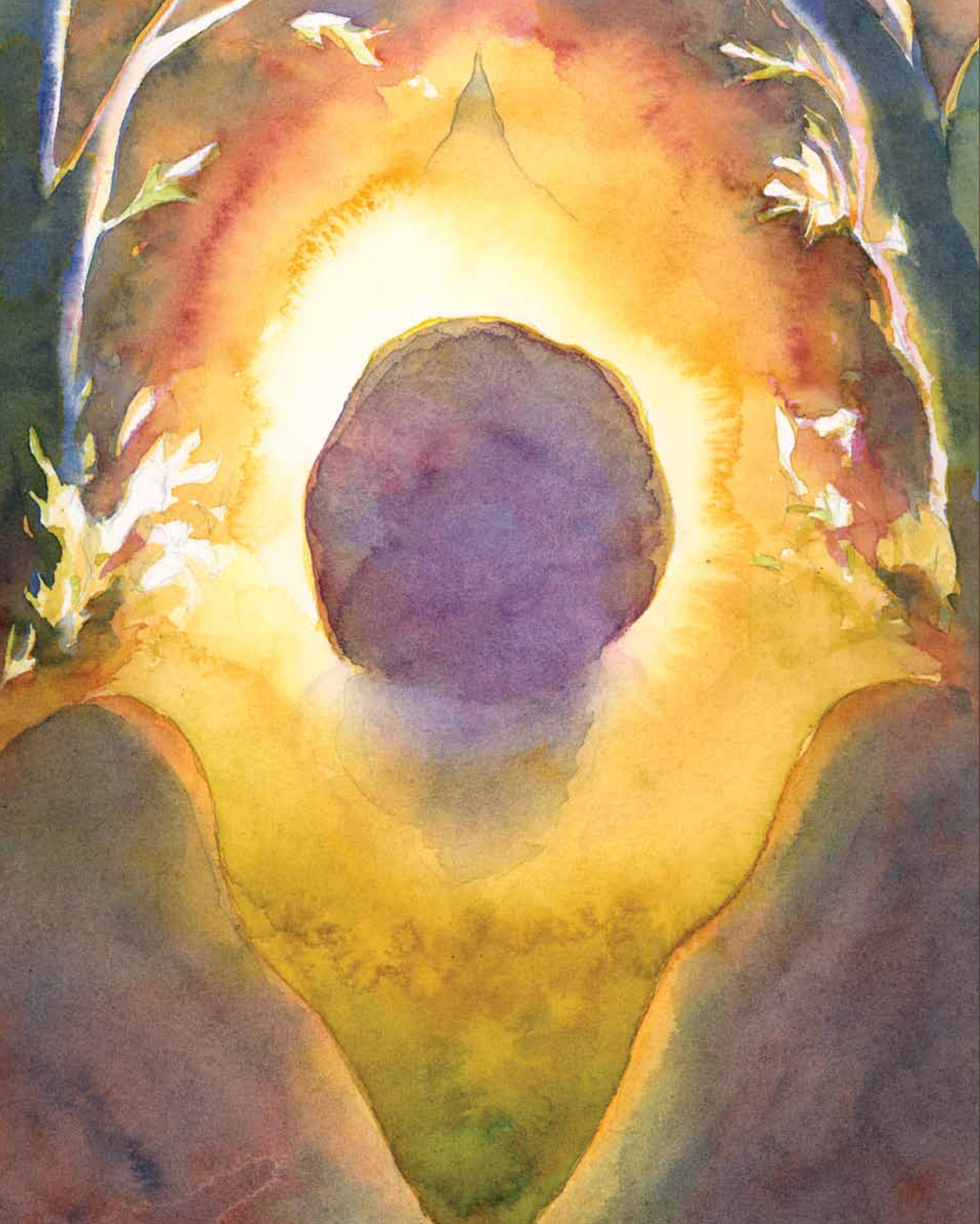


XII

JESUS' BODY IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body.

— John 19:31-34,38



XIII

JESUS' BODY IS ENTOMBED

So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

– Matthew 27:59-61

They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

– John 19:40-42



XIV

THE LORD IS RISEN

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “**Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.**” So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly, Jesus met them and said, “**Greetings!**” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “**Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.**”

– Matthew 28:1-10

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Kathrin Burleson is an artist and writer. She was born in Petaluma, California, and has lived most of her life in Northern California. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in French from the University of California, Berkeley, as well as advanced degrees in art and psychology. She studied art and art history at the Louvre in Paris while pursuing her studies in French literature at the Sorbonne.



The common thread in her background and current work is communication—the connections between realms and the bridges between realities. Themes of her paintings range from conceptual and contemplative works to visionary interpretations of the natural world. Whether painting people, animals, or liturgical themes, her work explores the interconnectedness of all of creation. The recipient of numerous awards, she has exhibited her work in museums, galleries, and churches throughout the United States.

Kathrin was baptized Greek Orthodox, raised in a Presbyterian church, and became an Episcopalian as a young adult. She is grateful for this rich variety of religious experience and finds meaning and beauty in each of these traditions. She is a founding member of Saints Martha and Mary Episcopal Mission, Trinidad, and is an associate of the Community of the Transfiguration, a religious community for women in The Episcopal Church.

Kathrin and her husband Michael live in Trinidad, California, where they share their home with a lively menagerie, which includes a talkative African grey parrot, an elderly cat, and two Pembroke Welsh corgis. When not painting or writing, she can usually be found training or running agility with her dogs.

View more of her work at www.KathrinBurleson.com.